

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 CU-02 BIB-01 DHA-02 /083 W
-----220645Z 034588 /15

R 211631Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4352
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GW, GE, US
SUBJECT: GDR FONMIN ON CARTER MESSAGE, FRG-GDR RELATIONS

REFS: A) BERLN 5385; B) BERLIN 5522; C) BERLIN 5554

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE SED CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MARCH 18, GDR FONMIN OSCAR FISCHER REPEATED
MANY OF THE FOREIGN POLICY POINTS MADE BY HONECKER IN HIS
POLITBURO REPORT THE DAY BEFORE, WITH A FEW INTERESTING
TWISTS. MOST SIGNIFICANT PERHAPS WAS FISCHER'S REMARK
THAT THE GDR HAD RECEIVED PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE
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LEIPZIG FAIR " WITH INTEREST."

2. IN RECITING THE USUAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST OPPONENTS OF
DETENTE, FISCHER NOTED THAT THE ENEMY TRIED TO USE ECONOMIC-
FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND SUBVERSION TO FIGHT SOCIALISM.
BUT IN FISCHER'S OPINION, NO SOCIALIST COUNTRY, INCLUDING
THE GDR, WAS CAPABLE OF BEING PRESSURED IN THIS WAY.

3. ON THE FRG , FISCHER ACCUSED CERTAIN WEST GERMAN GROUPS OF SEEKING DOMINANCE IN WESTERN EUROPE, NATO, AND THE EEC. THE FRG SOUGHT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR AND OTHER COUNTRIES, FISCHER ALLEGED , A TENDENCY MADE MORE SERIOUS BY THE " TRADITIONAL INABILITY OF GERMAN IMPERIALISM AND MILITARISM" TO CORRECTLY ASSESS THE POWER BALANCE. FISCHER SAID THAT HONECKER HAD BASED HIS POSITION TOWARD THE FRG IN HIS SAARBRUECKER ZEITUNG INTERVIEW (REF A) ON THE DECISIONS OF THE WARSAW PACT CONSULATIVE COMMITTEE. SPECIFICALLY, HONECKER HAD SHOWN THAT THE WAY TO COUNTER THE ENEMY'S ARGUMENTS WAS TO BRING BASIC PROBLEMS TO THE FOREFRONT.

4. FISCHER REPEATED HONECKER'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY POINTING OUT THAT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT TO WORK, THE RIGHT TO SECURITY, AND THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, WERE ASSURED UNDER SOCIALISM. THE SOCIALIST STATES WOULD NOT ALLOW " FALSE STANDARDS" TO BE FORCED UPON THEM.

5. COMMENT: THE GDR PLAYED UP THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE LEIPZIG FAIR BY GIVING IT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN ND (REF B) AND NOW IN FISCHER'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE SPEECH, AN APPARENT SIGN OF THE GDR'S WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO (ANY) ENCOURAGING SIGNALS IN BILATERAL AFFAIRS.

6. FISCHER'S SPEECH IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF GDR CONFIDENCE THE FRG WILL NOT USE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST IT IN SPITE OF RECENT GDR STEPS ON BERLIN AND TURNING BACK INCREASED NUMBERS OF FRG CITIZENS ATTEMPTING TO VISIT THE GDR. FISCHER'S STATEMENT THAT THE GDR WILL COUNTER FRG INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY FOCUSING ON BASIC PROBLEMS FITS IN WITH HONECKER'S EMPHASIS ON THE ISSUES OF GDR CITIZENSHIP AND THE FRG-GDR BORDER IN HIS MARCH 17 POLITBURO STATEMENT (REF C). FISCHER'S SPEECH CONTAINS THE FIRST REFERENCE WE HAVE SEEN TO THIS POSITION BEING SUPPORTED BY THE WARSAW PACT AND RESULTING FROM THE RECENT WARSAW PACT MEETING IN BUCHAREST. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EAST WEST TRADE, DETENTE, SPEECHES, PARTY MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770097-0456
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770341/aaaabiww.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3e865cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 5385, 77 BERLIN 5522, 77 BERLIN 5554
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3053452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR FONMIN ON CARTER MESSAGE, FRG-GDR RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GC, US, CSCE, (FISCHER, OSCAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e865cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009